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## Informational sessions set for employers interested in technician training program

*Application deadline for MAT<sup>2</sup> program is March 30*

**February 11, 2016** – Michigan employers who are interested in taking advantage of the Michigan Advanced Technician Training (MAT<sup>2</sup>) program this fall are encouraged to participate in a series of upcoming informational sessions.

MAT<sup>2</sup> is an innovative training initiative that combines classroom instruction with paid work experience in a three-year program. The application deadline for employers to participate in the program is March 30.

“Michigan companies need their next generation of highly skilled technicians in order to remain competitive,” said Stephanie Comai, director of the Michigan Talent Investment Agency. “MAT<sup>2</sup> is an industry-defined education program that provides employers with technicians who have the skills and competencies to operate state-of-the-art technology. We’re pleased to have 46 employers who are sponsoring over 130 students, but we’re also looking for new employers for 2016.”

One of the key benefits of MAT<sup>2</sup> is the state of Michigan’s Applicant Pool system. With access to the Applicant Pool, employers have access to resumes of candidates who are interested in working in highly skilled technical careers – and who meet the academic requirements to be successful in a challenging training program.

Participating colleges and programs include:

**Mechatronics** - Baker College of Cadillac, Henry Ford College and Oakland Community College.

Mechatronics technicians apply electrical, mechanical, and electronics skills to modify machines, make minor changes, repair, test, and provide maintenance for production machinery. Troubleshooting is a key competency.

**Computer Numerical Control (CNC)** - Delta College, Henry Ford College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. CNC technicians set up, operate, and produce high-quality products on CNC machine tools. Skills include blueprint reading, gauging and inspection, statistical process control, mathematics, safety, and machine tooling.

**Information Technology (IT)** - Oakland Community College. IT technicians install, troubleshoot, maintain and update technologies, and communicate to both internal and external customers. Areas of focus include system support, database systems, network administration, and system security.

**Technical Product Design (TPD)** – Mott Community College. Technical Product Design technicians use their skills to develop new products or modify existing ones. TPD technicians create 2-D drawings, technical documents, 3-D models, and computer simulations to demonstrate design goals.

In addition to cost-savings in applicant recruitment and customized training, MAT<sup>2</sup> employer advantages include:

- Training students on in-house equipment;
- Standardized competencies and practices;
- A pipeline of well-trained talent as an outcome;
- Finding skilled talent to replace an aging workforce.

Through the MAT<sup>2</sup> initiative, students earn an associate degree from a participating college, while they earn wages and obtain work experience with a participating company. Tuition is paid for by the employer, and in exchange, the student commits to remaining on the job for at least two years after successful completion of the program.

Employers interested in joining the fall 2016 programs should apply by March 30 to have access to a pool of qualified candidates to interview. Employer commitments are based on companies finding the best candidate for their company.

### **MAT<sup>2</sup> Employer Information Sessions Scheduled**

Employer information sessions will be in February and March at each of the participating colleges. Companies will have the chance to meet with current MAT<sup>2</sup> employers and students and to tour the college's training facility. Sessions scheduled are:

**Thursday, Feb. 18**, Henry Ford College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Technology Building, Room E-123, – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24**, Oakland Community College, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills. Advanced Technology Center, Building T, Room T-1 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 2**, Oakland Community College, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills. Advanced Technology Center, Building T, Room T-1 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Thursday, March 10**, Henry Ford College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Technology Building, Room E-123, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

To RSVP for an informational session or for more details, send an email to [wda-mat2@michigan.gov](mailto:wda-mat2@michigan.gov).

For more information about how Michigan companies can become MAT<sup>2</sup> employers, go to <http://www.mitalent.org/mat2-employer-information/>

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